

- (2) Whistle boards are also provided alongside the rail track on approach of the level crossings to enable the train driver to whistle to warn road users about the approaching train. Periodic drives are launched to check whether the drivers are whistling from the whistling boards.
- (3) To educate the road users about safety at unmanned level crossings, publicity campaign is launched through various media like quickies on TV, cinema slides, posters, talks on radio and newspaper advertisements and street plays.
- (4) Joint ambush checks with civil authorities to nab errant road vehicle drivers under the provisions of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Railways Act, 1989.
- (5) Since accidents at unmanned level crossings take place due to negligence of road users, the State Governments can help by exercising strict checks while issuing driving licenses, specially to drivers of trucks, buses and other heavy vehicles. Road users have still not got used to the faster speeds of Mail/Express trains. A train travelling at 90 kmph covers 25 meters/second. Thus, although to the road user it appears to be 200 meters away, in terms of time, it is only 8 seconds away.
- (6) Involvement of village panchayats in their public awareness programme.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

Technology Development Board

2556. SHRI NITISH KUMAR:
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have constituted a Technology Development Board in the country;
- (b) if so, the date on which the board was constituted and the annual estimated budget of the board;
- (c) whether the officers of this board undertook foreign tours to give thrust to the technological research work during the last few years;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether there are any guidelines for the Board to spend the annual budget amount on various heads, and if so, the break up of amount incurred on the salaries, maintenance, tour expenses, research and technological development etc. during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Technology Development Board was constituted on 1st September, 1996. The Budget Estimate for 1997-98 is Rs. 70.00 Cr.

(c) and (d) The Board's functions include providing financial assistance to industrial concerns and other agencies for attestation development and commercialisation of indigenous technology or adaptation of imported technology for wider domestic application and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The Board may sponsor foreign travel including of its officers in furtherance of its objectives. The Member-Secretary of the Board was included by the Government in a joint group with representatives of industry association and academic institutions to study the functioning of technology transfer centres in Germany and meeting with the officials of Science & Technology in the Department of Trade and Industry in London in July 1997. The expenditure incurred by the Government on the tour of the Member-Secretary was Rs. 1.70 lakhs. No other tour has been undertaken by any officer of the Board so far.

(e) The Board is administered under the provisions of the Technology Development Board Act, 1995 and the Technology Development Board Rules, 1996. The Government has released a sum of Rs. 29.97 crores during the year 1996-97, the break-up of which is as follows :

Grant	Rs. 29.00 crores
Salaries	Rs. 0.50 crore
Other administrative expenses	Rs. 0.47 crore

[English]

Free Rail Travel Pass facility to Dronacharya Award Winners

2557. SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV :
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to provide free rail travel pass facility to the Dronacharya Award Winners on the line of facility provided to the Arjun Award Winners;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.